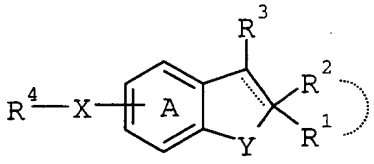
In the Claims

Please substitute the following claims 11, 12, 26 and 28 for the claims 11, 12, 26 and 28 now pending in the above-identified application.

Please cancel claims 22 and 25 without prejudice to the filing of future continuing applications.

Claims 1-10 (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula:



wherein R^1 and R^2 are each a C_{1-6} alkyl or R^1 and R^2 form, taken together with the adjacent carbon atom, a piperidine optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{6-14} aryl and C_{7-16} aralkyl;

R^3 is a phenyl optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, amino, mono-C_{1-6} alkylamino and di-C_{1-6} alkylamino;

R^4 is

(i) C_{1-6} alkyl substituted by a phenyl or pyridyl, each of which is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, hydroxy, amino, mono-C_{1-6} alkylamino, di-C_{1-6} alkylamino and carboxy, or

(ii) an acyl of the formula: -(C=O)-$R^{5'}$ wherein $R^{5'}$ is a phenyl or phenyl-C_{1-6} alkyl, each of which is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, hydroxy, amino, mono-C_{1-6} alkylamino, di-C_{1-6} alkylamino and carboxy;

X is an oxygen atom;

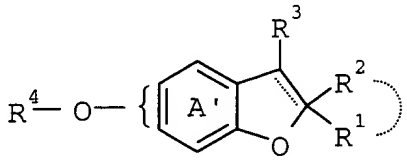
Y is an oxygen atom; and

ring A is a benzene ring which is optionally further substituted by 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, halogenated or unhalogenated C_{1-6} alkyl, halogenated or unhalogenated C_{1-6} alkoxy, amino, mono-C_{1-6} alkylamino and di-C_{1-6} alkylamino,

provided that when ------ is a single bond, R^4 is not acyl,

and salts thereof.

12. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula:



wherein R^1 and R^2 are each C_{1-6} alkyl or R^1 and R^2 form, taken together with the adjacent carbon atom, a piperidine substituted by a C_{1-6} alkyl or a C_{7-16} aralkyl;

R^3 is a phenyl optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of (1) C_{1-6} alkyl, (2) di-C_{1-6} alkylamino and (3) 6-membered saturated cyclic amino optionally substituted by a C_{1-6} alkyl,

R^4 is

(i) a phenyl optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of nitro and C_{1-6} alkyl-carboxamido,

(ii) a C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{2-6} alkenyl group substituted by 1 to 3 of phenyl, quinolyl or pyridyl, each of which is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkylthio, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl and C_{1-6} alkylsulfinyl, which C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{2-6} alkenyl group is optionally further substituted by a phenyl, carboxy or C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl, or

(iii) an acyl of the formula: -(C=O)-$R^{5''}$

wherein $R^{5''}$ is phenyl substituted by a C_{1-6} alkoxy; and

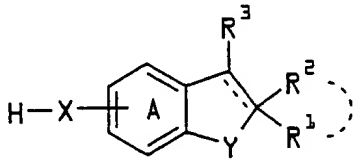
ring A' is a benzene ring which is optionally further substituted by 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl,

provided that when ----- is a single bond, R^4 is not acyl,

and salts thereof.

13. (Previously Presented) 3-(4-isopropylphenyl)-2,4,6,7-tetramethylbenzofuran-5-yl 4-methoxybenzoate, 3-(4-isopropylphenyl)-5-(4-methoxybenzyloxy)-2,4,6,7-tetramethylbenzofuran, 3-(4-isopropylphenyl)-5-(4-methoxybenzyloxy)-1',4,6,7-tetramethylspiro(benzofuran-2(3H), 4'-piperidine), or a salt thereof.

14. (Previously Presented) A process for producing a compound of Claim 11, which comprises reacting a compound of the formula:



wherein each symbol is as defined in Claim 11, or a salt thereof with a compound of the formula: R^4–L wherein L represents a leaving group and R^4 is as defined in Claim 11, or salt thereof.

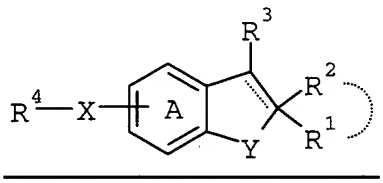
15. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound of Claim 11, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent.

Claims 16-23 (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) 3-(4-Isopropylphenyl)-5-(4-methoxybenzyloxy)-2,2,4,6,7-pentamethyl-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of claim 25, which is a method~~ for treating Alzheimer's disease **in a mammal comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of the formula**



wherein R^1 and R^2 each represent an acyclic hydrocarbon group or a cycloalkyl group;

R^3 represents an unsubstituted or substituted phenyl group;

R^4 represents an aliphatic hydrocarbon group substituted by an unsubstituted or substituted aromatic group, which aliphatic hydrocarbon group is optionally further substituted;

X and Y each represent an oxygen atom;

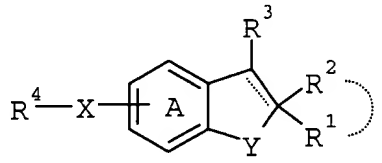
---------- represents a single bond or a double bond;

and Ring A represents a benzene which is optionally further substituted apart from the group of the formula: -X-R^4 wherein each symbol is as defined above,

or a salt thereof.

Claim 27 (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) A method ~~**of claim 22, which is a method**~~ for treating Alzheimer's disease **comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of the formula:**



wherein R^1 and R^2 are each a C_{1-6} alkyl or R^1 and R^2 form, taken together with the adjacent carbon atom, a piperidine optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{6-14} aryl and C_{7-16} aralkyl;

R^3 is a phenyl optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, amino, mono-C_{1-6} alkylamino and di-C_{1-6} alkylamino;

R^4 is

(i) **C_{1-6} alkyl substituted by a phenyl or pyridyl, each of which is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, hydroxy, amino, mono-C_{1-6} alkylamino, di-C_{1-6} alkylamino and carboxy, or**

(ii) **an acyl of the formula: -(C=O)-$R^{5'}$ wherein $R^{5'}$ is a phenyl or phenyl-C_{1-6} alkyl, each of which is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituents selected**

from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, hydroxy, amino, mono-C_{1-6} alkylamino, di-C_{1-6} alkylamino and carboxy;

X is an oxygen atom;

Y is an oxygen atom; and

ring A is a benzene ring which is optionally further substituted by 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, halogenated or unhalogenated C_{1-6} alkyl, halogenated or unhalogenated C_{1-6} alkoxy, amino, mono-C_{1-6} alkylamino and di-C_{1-6} alkylamino,

provided that when ------ is a single bond, R^4 is not acyl,

and salts thereof.

Claim 29 (Cancelled)